

New Legislation Makes Replacing Older Vehicles Easier

Repairing or replacing your car or truck just got easier. Beginning in December, if you qualify, AirCheckTexas Drive a Clean Machine can help you with up to \$3,500 towards replacing and up to \$600 for repairing your vehicle.



To help replace older, more polluting vehicles from Texas roadways in counties with high ground-level ozone, the TCEQ offers assistance to help replace and repair vehicles through its Drive a Clean Machine Program. Eligible individuals in 16 Texas counties can receive financial assistance to replace vehicles that are more than 10 years old, or to help repair vehicles that have failed an emissions test. Department of Public Safety-recognized facilities are available for emissions-related repairs.

Visit <www.driveacleanmachine.org> to find out if you qualify, or call (toll free) 800-913-3321. You can also find a list of cars and trucks for which you can use a voucher towards purchase.

What Can Your School Do About Air Pollution from School Buses?



Beginning Nov. 10, school districts can apply for grants to help pay for and install emissions reduction technologies for school buses. Authorized by the Texas

Legislature under House Bill 3469, the TCEQ has launched a clean school bus program designed to improve the health of children and bus drivers by reducing emissions of diesel exhaust from school buses. The comprehensive Texas Clean School Bus Program will give funding and other resources to school districts throughout Texas.

Funding is open to school bus retrofit projects in all public school districts and charter schools in Texas. To learn more about the program and other opportunities for funding, and to find out how to apply, visit <www.texascleanschoolbus.org>.

Public Meetings Scheduled for Water Quality Projects

Upcoming public meetings in the Houston area will address the amount (or load) of a pollutant that a body of water can receive and still support its designated uses, also known as the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). The TCEQ's TMDL program works to improve water quality in impaired or threatened water bodies in Texas by outlining the steps necessary to reduce pollutant loads through regulatory and voluntary activities that will restore full use of the water body.

The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) and the TCEQ will be holding a series of public meetings for two TMDL projects: the Houston Metro Bacteria TMDL and the Lake Houston Bacteria TMDL. Both watersheds exceed the bacteria criteria for contact recreation use. All are welcome to attend. For location, times, and exact dates, visit the TMDL Calendar at <www.tceq.state.tx.us>, click on 'Calendar' on the left navigation column, and then click on 'TMDL Calendar' to view.

Additional information about the TMDL Program is available in the related links listed in the right-hand column of the TMDL Calendar Web page.

Meet the New Mascots

Say hello to the TCEQ's newest mascots, River and Sky, who lead youngsters to do their part to Take Care of Texas. Take Care of Texas is a TCEQ program that encourages Texans to take simple steps to protect our environment.

River and Sky are colorfully rendered to characterize the Texas Blue Lacy breed, the state dog of Texas.

Featured on the kids' pages of the Take Care of Texas Web site, Sky introduces children to an animated Eco Match picture game, while River hosts the Lone Star Trivia game. These games are both fun and educational. To play the games and find out more, visit <www.takecareoftexas.org> and click on the "kids" link.



Agricultural Waste Pesticide Collections Scheduled

The TCEQ organizes regional waste pesticide collections of unwanted or unused (waste) pesticides throughout the state as part of the Agricultural Waste Pesticide Collection Program.

The collections, conducted rain or shine, give agricultural producers who use pesticides in Texas an opportunity to dispose of unwanted products that may pose a hazard to them, their families, and their surrounding farming and ranching communities. The program is strictly voluntary.

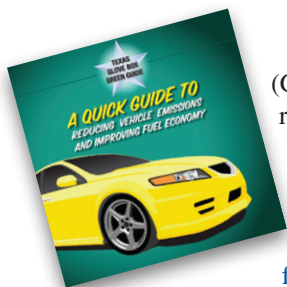
All this is done at no expense to participants and they do not have to identify themselves. However, the TCEQ conducts a four-question survey of participants to obtain demographic information, to determine if the program can legally take the material, and to decide how to properly handle the material. Upcoming events scheduled are:

Uvalde – December 4
Floresville – December 5
Robstown – December 6
Roby – December 11
Wall – December 12
Fredericksburg – December 13

For information on contacts, locations, and materials accepted, visit www.tceq.state.tx.us/goto/agcollection/.

Highlighted TCEQ Publications

Guidelines for Vehicle Manufacturers Under the TERP Light-Duty Motor Vehicle Purchase or Lease Incentive Program (RG-391) explains compliance requirements for motor-vehicle manufacturers under an incentive program of the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan. To view a copy, visit www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/rg/rg-391.html.



Texas Glove Box Green Guide (GI-377) offers seven tips on how to reduce vehicle emissions and improve fuel economy. And it's small enough to fit in your glove box! To order a copy for all of your vehicles, visit www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/gi/gi-377.html.

Everything's big in Texas. But no one likes big energy bills. *Texas-Sized Savings* (GI-376) (a bill stuffer or paycheck stuffer) gives simple steps to reduce energy use, save you money, and help keep our big Texas skies beautiful. To view a copy, visit www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/gi/gi-376.html.

Show off your commitment to taking personal responsibility for a cleaner environment by displaying a *Take Care of Texas* (M-017) bumper sticker. To order the bumper sticker, visit www.takecareoftexas.org/publications.

Do Your Part! Be a S.M.A.R.T. Driver (GI-375) poster lists five tips for new drivers on driving efficiently and keeping their vehicles in good running condition to help reduce air pollution. To view the poster before ordering, visit www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/gi/gi-375.html



The Low-NOx Reflash Software Upgrade for Diesel School Buses (GI-373) is an information sheet for school districts on upgrading their school-bus fleet to reduce air pollution. To view a copy, visit www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/gi/gi-373.html. Also, *Diesel Exhaust and School Bus Idling* (GI-374) provides information for school districts and the general public about the effects of school-bus idling on health and the environment. Visit www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/gi/gi-374.html.

Outdoor Burning in Texas (RG-049) is a guide to help interpret the revised Outdoor Burning Rule, Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Sections 111.201-221. It is intended for the general public, the regulated community, and state and local officials.

To view a copy of the guide, visit www.tceq.state.tx.us/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/rg/rg-049.html.

Take Care of Texas Tip

Recycle

On average, each Texan generates about 7 pounds of garbage every day.

By recycling paper, metal, plastic, and other materials, you can reduce waste, help conserve energy, and preserve our state's natural resources.



www.takecareoftexas.org

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